

CES ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.



Removal Program removes spilled and containerized wastes

Voluntary Cleanup Program in the works to address site contamination

CES Environmental Services, Inc. Site (Site) is a former chemical recycling/waste management facility located approximately seven miles from downtown Houston, Harris County, Texas. The site is located in an environmental justice area consisting primarily of residential, educational and commercial establishments. The site was abandoned in 2010 due to Chapter 7 bankruptcy. **Add: The company was indicted and sentenced to prison for safety and environmental crimes.** **Delete: Yellow highlighted areas** The site is currently and continues to be managed by the bankruptcy court through a court appointed trustee. The trustee actions to address the site were for the primary benefit of the creditors which resulted in some environmental cleanup as resources were made available due to the sale of assets. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) monitored these actions.

In March 2014 TCEQ made EPA aware of a spill on the site resulting from theft and vandalism. TCEQ worked with the Trustee to address this spill. In August 2014, the EPA was notified by the City of Houston of another spill believed to also be associated with vandalism and impacting drainage ditches in a residential neighborhood behind the facility. The City of Houston, TCEQ, and EPA all responded to the spill. The City of Houston and then the TCEQ took the lead response role and EPA assisted as the trustee did not have the resources to address the spill. At that point EPA initiated a removal assessment and subsequently mobilized assets in September 2014 to

initiate necessary cleanup actions. The EPA cleanup action lasted until June 10, 2015. During the course of the response, the EPA coordinated with residents by public meetings, fact sheets, site updates, media interviews, and personal interactions with the local community, local and federal politicians, non-government organizations including the Texas Organizing Project, Texas Low Income Housing Information Service, and Air Alliance Houston.

During the course of the cleanup actions, EPA removed waste from 11 vacuum boxes, 1 roll-off box, 43 ASTs, 167 drums, totes, and miscellaneous containers, 9 frac tanks, 1 subsurface oil/water separator, 19 sumps, 2 trench drain areas, contaminated soils, spill areas, and contaminated pooled water areas. The disposed material included primarily cresol contaminated waste, benzene contaminated waste, and corrosive wastes (some of which were hazardous wastes). The volume of these combined wastes disposed of by EPA was approximately: 541,719 gallons, 206,705 pounds, and 400 cubic yards.

The TCEQ and EPA have identified PRPs and a group has been identified to manage the site. **In 2014, the abandoned chemical facility experienced two (2) spills associated with vandalism. The TCEQ requested EPA assistance to address the chemical facility as the Bankruptcy Trustee did not have the sufficient resources to properly secure, cleanup, and dispose of the leaking and deteriorating chemical containers.**

This picture provided is sufficient for the threat